

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 00735 011133Z

46

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-10 EUR-12 AID-05 NIC-01

CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /086 W

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R 011017Z APR 75

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6980

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JERUSALEM 0735

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, IS, JO

SUBJ: 20,000 ISRAELIS TAKE PART IN TWO-DAY SAMARIA MARCH

1. SUMMARY. ESTIMATED 20,000 ISRAELIS PARTICIPATED IN MARCH FROM POINT ON ISRAEL-WEST BANK BORDER NEAR TULKARM TO SEBASTIA (NEAR NABLUS) ON MARCH 30-31. MARCH SPONSORED BY GUSH EMUNIM TO DRAMATIZE ITS VIEW THAT ADDITIONAL JEWISH SETTLEMENTS SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN SAMARIA, WHICH GUSH BELIEVES SHOULD BE RETAINED BY ISRAEL. EVENT WENT OFF PEACEFULLY, WITH ONLY SMALL ISRAELI (MAINLY LEFT-WING) COUNTER-DEMONSTRATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS AND RADIO, APPROXIMATELY 20,000 ISRAELIS PARTICIPATED IN TWO-DAY "MARCH TO SAMARIA" MARCH 30-31. MARCH WAS SPONSORED BY GUSH EMUNIM, PRIMARILY RELIGIOUSLY-MOTIVATED GROUP CONSISTING IN PART OF NRP YOUTH BUT ALSO INCLUDING OTHER RELIGIOUS EXTREMISTS. GUSH HAS BEEN BEHIND SEVERAL ATTEMPTS TO SET UP ILLEGAL SETTLEMENTS IN SEBASTIA AREA NEAR NABLUS AND ELSEWHERE EARLIER IN MARCH AND LAST FALL. MARCH DESIGNED TO DRAMATIZE ITS VIEW THAT GOI SHOULD AUTHORIZE ADDITIONAL WEST

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PAGE 02 JERUSA 00735 011133Z

BANK SETTLEMENTS AND THAT ISRAEL SHOULD NOT GIVE UP THIS

TERRITORY IN ANY PEACE SETTLEMENT.

3. MARCH APPARENTLY WENT OFF PEACEFULLY, WITH ONLY ONE ENCOUNTER WITH SMALL OPPOSITION GROUP REPORTED IN JERUSALEM POST MARCH 31. THIS INVOLVED ABOUT 15 PEOPLE FROM KIBBUTZ KEREM SHALOM WHO CARRIED PLACARDS SAYING "THE NEGEV IS WAITING FOR YOU" AND "THE SAMARIA MARCH CAUSES HATRED BETWEEN PEOPLE". LEFT-WING ISRAELI GROUP OF ABOUT 100 (RAKAH, MOKED, ETC.) ALSO STAGED COUNTER-DEMONSTRATION AT JERUSALEM CITY HALL MARCH 30 BUT WAS DENIED PERMISSION TO MARCH THROUGH OLD CITY.

4. MOST PARTICIPANTS IN MARCH PRESUMABLY SUPPORT POLITICAL VIEWS OF SPONSORS, BUT ACCORDING TO PRESS SOME WERE SIMPLY ENJOYING EXCELLENT WEATHER AND PICNIC ATMOSPHERE, AS WELL AS SHOWING OPPOSITION TO LEFTISTS.

5. NY TIMES CORRESPONDENT CONFIRMED TO US PRESS REPORT THAT MUKTAR OF SEBASTIA WAS EXTREMELY WARY AND REPEATEDLY ASKED MILGOV FOR ASSURANCES, WHICH WERE GIVEN, THAT MARCHERS WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO STAY. LOCAL POPULATION DID NOT ATTEMPT TO INTERFERE IN MARCH; REPORTEDLY SOME CHILDREN KEPT HOME FROM SCHOOL, ALLEGEDLY DUE TO TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS RESULTING FROM MARCH.

6. COMMENT. LEADERS OF MARCH HAVE MADE CLEAR IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS THAT THEIR AGREEMENT NOT TO MAKE FURTHER SETTLEMENT ATTEMPT IN CONNECTION WITH MARCH (WHICH WAS CONDITION ON WHICH GOI GRANTED PERMISSION FOR MARCH) DOES NOT IN ANY WAY ALTER THEIR PLANS TO RENEW SUCH EFFORTS IN FUTURE.
DAY

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